



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**U.S. Geological Survey-Biological Resources Division,**  
**Western Ecological Research Center**



Channel Islands Field Station  
1901 Spinnaker Dr.  
Ventura, California 93001  
(805) 658-5753 FAX (805) 658-5798

30 October 2008

Samuel P. Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Re: Santa Cruz Island Restoration Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

We have reviewed the proposal to the California State Coastal Conservancy for grant support for Santa Cruz Island restoration work. USGS-WERC-Channel Islands Field Station supports and endorses this project, a perfect complement to USGS research on the island. The work will help conserve rare and unusual island habitats, and it addresses several recovery actions for the endangered plants of the island. USGS will be glad to share research information that contributes to and complements the actions outlined in the proposed work.

Sincerely,

Kathryn McEachern, Ph.D.  
Senior Plant Ecologist



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE**  
**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**  
113 Harbor Way  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

October 28, 2008

Mr. Samuel P. Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat: *Sam:*

I support the conservation work proposed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on Santa Cruz Island, CA. The funding they are seeking will allow TNC to work with its partners to 1) obtain information to proactively manage island resources and conduct an island-wide, all-taxa biological inventory; 2) conduct an Argentine ant eradication feasibility study; 3) continue native plant outplanting and restoration; 4) support Park Service led restoration of Prisoners' Harbor coastal wetland and Canada del Puerto watershed; and 5) develop a prevention and rapid response plan to manage incipient invasive species, including preventing new invasions through public awareness and vigilance.

As you know, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary manages marine resources from the mean high tide line to six nautical miles offshore of the five northern Channel Islands. The health and survival of marine seabirds and pinnipeds at nesting and haulout sites will benefit from TNC's management and restoration of Santa Cruz Island. For example, on Anacapa Island, Xantus's murrelet nesting was severely impacted by invasive rats until they were actively removed. Restoration of the Prisoner's Harbor wetland and the Canada del Puerto watershed will help to maintain water quality in the near shore sanctuary environment, and the development of public awareness programs promoting watershed protection and invasive species prevention will also support sanctuary management goals.

The Nature Conservancy is a great steward of Santa Cruz Island, and has worked very effectively with partners and stakeholders, including Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. I hope that the Coastal Conservancy will support this important project.

Sincerely,

Chris Mobley  
Superintendent





State of California - The Resources Agency

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>  
South Coast Region  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, CA, 92123  
(858) 467-4201



October 24, 2008

Samuel P. Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:


Santa Cruz Island is both a slice of pre-European-settlement Southern California and a sanctuary for eight endemic plant species found nowhere else on earth. An additional three dozen native plant species unique to the Channel Islands also are found on the Island. Nine of these taxa are recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered or threatened. Protecting these plants and their habitat is part of preserving the natural heritage of California for future generations.

The vegetation of Santa Cruz Island has been impacted by feral ungulates for over 150 years. These animals consumed both common and rare native plants, caused erosion, spread invasive weeds, and changed the species composition of several natural vegetation communities. Through the progressive vision of The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service, nearly all the non-native land mammals have been removed from Santa Cruz Island.

The threat from non-native, invasive plant species continues. "Legacy" weeds from ranching and farming days persist and in many cases are spreading. With the mainland only 20 miles away, wind-borne seeds from pampas grass have blown to the island and have established several populations, river cane root masses from the Ventura and Santa Clara Rivers have floated to several island beaches and sprouted, and thousands of visitors arrive yearly, potentially bringing with them additional weed seeds or insect pests.

The Nature Conservancy has shown leadership in tackling the difficult issues associated with non-native species control and is ready to continue the long-term stewardship of Santa Cruz Island by moving forward with restoration work. Their proposal to study the feasibility of Argentine ant eradication, comprehensively assess invasive plant distribution, prioritize management actions, and implement an efficient invasive plant species control program will promote recovery of imperiled plant and animal populations. Thus, the proposal to restore the ungulate-damaged areas of the island and protect rare plant species is a vision worthy of support. I hope you will help The Nature Conservancy achieve their goals to create and protect a healthy native ecosystem on Santa Cruz Island.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund J. Pert  
Regional Manager  
South Coast Region

Mr. Schuchat,  
October 24, 2008  
Page 2 of 2

cc: Department of Fish and Game  
Dale Steele, Sacramento  
Terri Stewart, San Diego  
Kim McKee, Carlsbad  
Nancy Frost, San Diego

✓ The Nature Conservancy  
Lotus Vermeer, Ventura Field Office  
3639 Harbor Blvd, Suite 201  
Ventura, CA 93660



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, California 93003



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
2009-B-33

November 3, 2008

Samuel P. Schuchat, Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, California 94612-2530

Subject: Grant Proposal from The Nature Conservancy for Resource Restoration and Management Activities on Santa Cruz Island, Santa Barbara County, California

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I am writing to express the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's strong support for the conservation work proposed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on Santa Cruz Island, California. The specific tasks for which TNC is seeking funding are logical and integral parts of a larger long-term conservation strategy for the island. TNC's objectives for utilizing the requested funding include: (1) obtaining information to proactively manage island resources and conduct an island-wide, all-taxa biological inventory; (2) conduct an Argentine ant eradication feasibility study; (3) continue native plant outplanting and restoration; (4) support the National Park Service-led restoration of Prisoners' Harbor coastal wetland and Canada del Puerto watershed; and (5) develop an incipient invasive species prevention and rapid response plan to manage incipient invasive species, and prevent new invasions through public awareness and vigilance. The assistance of the Coastal Conservancy will allow these important ecosystem improvement and preservation activities to continue to progress.

Santa Cruz Island is the largest and most biologically diverse of California's Channel Islands, and is home to 12 species of plants and animals found nowhere else on earth. Ten of these species are federally listed as threatened or endangered. Perhaps even more importantly, Santa Cruz Island has a diversity of vegetation communities ranging from coastal strand to pine forest that are representative of the California mainland as it was prior to extensive human development. It is a reminder of and a refuge for the rich biological heritage of Southern California.

The Nature Conservancy has done an admirable job of stewarding the resources of Santa Cruz Island and working collaboratively with a diverse group of partners and stakeholders. We fully expect that this dedication and effective management will continue, and I hope that the Coastal Conservancy will lend their support to these important activities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (805) 644-1766, extension 313.

Sincerely,

Diane K. Noda  
Field Supervisor



SANTA CRUZ ISLAND RESERVE  
UC NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM  
MARINE SCIENCE BUILDING, RM 2312  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106-6150  
PHONE (805) 893-7247  
EMAIL: laughrin@lifesci.ucsb.edu  
FAX: (805) 893-8062

November 3, 2008

Samuel P. Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530


Dear Mr. Schuatt,

For many years the University of California, through its Natural Reserve System (NRS), has partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), not only on Santa Cruz Island, but in other locations throughout California in order to enhance, conserve and preserve the natural diversity of this state.

This stewardship sharing also couples preservation and conservation to the public and citizens of California through the University's mission of research, education, and public outreach.

The UC NRS Santa Cruz Island Reserve has worked closely with TNC on island related restoration and conservation efforts since the late 1970s. Earliest collaboration was of a research, inventory, and information gathering nature with faculty, graduate and undergraduate researchers from many institutions across the country making valuable contributions. More recently, involvement includes hands-on eradication efforts and construction of facilities for native plant propagation. University-level, as well as K-12, classes have participated in these endeavors. We expect this close partnership to continue into the future as restoration and conservation of this unique natural gem moves forward.

I very much endorse and support TNC's proposed Habitat Restoration Project and encourage you to give it your fullest support.

Sincerely,  
  
Lyndal Laughrin, Ph.D.  
Director,  
UC Santa Cruz Island Reserve



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Channel Islands National Park  
1901 Spinnaker Drive  
Ventura, California 93001-4354

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
N2219-CHIS

**OCT 24 2008**

Mr. Samuel P. Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

The National Park Service (NPS) would like to offer our strong support for the application of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for funds from the California Coastal Conservancy in support of ecological restoration projects on Santa Cruz Island in Channel Islands National Park.

Santa Cruz Island, the largest and most biologically diverse island in Channel Islands National Park, is entirely in conservation ownership. The western 76% of the island is owned by TNC; the eastern 24% of the island is owned by the NPS. This partnership has invested substantial funds and effort in eradicating non-native mammals (sheep, pigs, cattle) that had been introduced to the island during the years of ranching.

TNC is seeking funding for a 2-year period to further efforts to restore the Island's native biota and manage invasive species. This work will complement collaborative restoration efforts already underway on Santa Cruz Island by a number of partners. The funding they are requesting will be used to: 1) obtain information to proactively manage island resources and conduct an island wide all-taxa biological inventory (this will supplement funding obtained by the NPS; 2) conduct an Argentine ant eradication feasibility study (NPS has funds identified to carry out eradication of Argentine ants if it is determined to be feasible); 3) continue restoration of native plants; 4) support NPS-led restoration of Prisoners' Harbor coastal wetland and Canada del Puerto watershed; and 5) develop an invasive species prevention and rapid response plan to manage incipient invasive species, and prevent new invasions through public awareness and vigilance.

TNC and the NPS have a history of successful collaboration for conservation and ecological restoration on Santa Cruz Island. We feel the funds being requested of the Coastal Commission will significantly expand our cooperative efforts to date.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 805/658-5702 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Russell E. Galipeau, Jr.  
Superintendent







ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA-THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

1807 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103  
Sacramento, California 95811-7137  
Please Note Change of Zip Code www.wcb.ca.gov  
(916) 445-8448  
Fax (916) 323-0280

November 3, 2008

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

Santa Cruz Island Habitat Enhancement  
Santa Barbara County

Since 2007, the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) has helped fund the Nature Conservancy's efforts to restore habitat and combat invasive threats to Santa Cruz Island's varied ecosystems. The Nature Conservancy, through development of the first ever island-wide weed map, has made great progress towards abating and in some cases completely eradicating invasive plant species. In addition, The Nature Conservancy has implemented a native plant program in the central valley of the island to test different methods for re-establishing native vegetation. The WCB is considering funding a continuation of this important work in the future.

The restoration of the island provides a great opportunity to restore a unique ecosystem of California that can be effectively managed and maintained for years to come. We would appreciate your consideration of the Nature Conservancy's application for State Coastal Conservation funding, which we fully support for this project. If I can provide you with additional information, please call me at (916) 445-0137.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John P. Donnelly".

John P. Donnelly  
Executive Director

cc: Lotus Vermeer  
Coleen Cory, Ph.D.  
The Nature Conservancy  
3639 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 201  
Ventura, California 93001





**William D. Gillette**  
Commissioner / Director

September 20, 2008

Samuel P. Schuchat, Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway 13th Floor  
Oakland CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

Santa Cruz Island is a biological jewel and provides a unique opportunity for the protection of habitat. Located in Santa Barbara County, Santa Cruz Island is home to eleven state and federally listed threatened and endangered plant species. As a park and preserve, the island will be preserved in a natural state and serve as a reminder of what California looked like before buildings, farms, and freeways.

The Nature Conservancy, who owns 76% of Santa Cruz Island, (the public via the National Park Service owns the rest of the island), is applying to California State Coastal Conservancy for funding to restore habitat and control invasive species. The County of Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office supports The Nature Conservancy's application for funding.

The control of invasive species is considered a key element in resource management plans prepared by The Nature Conservancy and by the National Park Service for Santa Cruz Island and in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for the northern Channel Islands. The TNC project is consistent with the conservation of natural resources on Santa Cruz Island and will benefit native habitat through the control of invasive species.

The County of Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office shares with The Nature Conservancy the goal of significantly reducing the impact of invasive species on habitat. The Nature Conservancy is in the position to have the most direct effect on conditions on the island. Funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy is important to our success.

Assistance from the California State Coastal Conservancy for the conservation of California's natural heritage would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'William D. Gillette'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William D. Gillette  
Agricultural Commissioner

**JANET WOLF**  
County Supervisor, Second District

**MARY E. O'GORMAN**  
Chief of Staff

**KARIN QUIMBY**  
Executive Field Representative

**JANE S. FERRY**  
Office Manager

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

TELEPHONE: (805) 568-2191  
FAX: (805) 568-2283  
E-mail: jwolf@sbcbos2.org

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

October 24, 2008

Samuel P. Schuchat, Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I am writing to express my support for The Nature Conservancy's grant application to the California Coastal Conservancy to restore Santa Cruz Island's native biota and manage invasive species.

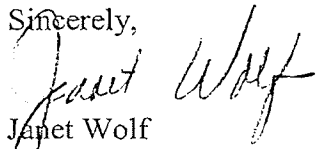
The Nature Conservancy's efforts to restore and manage Santa Cruz Island are multi-faceted and multi-phased. They have worked collaboratively with their partners, particularly the National Park Service, to remove non-native animals from the Island; restore the Santa Cruz Island fox and re-establish the bald eagle population. I was fortunate to travel to Santa Cruz Island last year to witness the release of Island foxes bred in captivity and to learn about the work The Nature Conservancy is conducting across the Island.

As The Nature Conservancy moves into its second phase of restoration work, their focus is on the abatement of the more chronic, critical threats to the island, mainly those posed by non-native plant species and new invasive species. The funding they are seeking from the California Coastal Conservancy is critical in their work to proactively manage island resources, eradicate the Argentine ant, continue native plant restoration, support the NPS-led restoration of Prisoners' Harbor coastal wetland and Canada del Puerto watershed, and develop an invasive species prevention and rapid response plan. Their prevention plan includes a public awareness campaign that is important to averting the arrival of new non-native species to the Island.

The Nature Conservancy's work is critical to fully restoring Santa Cruz Island, a jewel in the Second District of Santa Barbara County. I strongly support their grant application to the California Coastal Conservancy for the important work outlined above.

I can be reached at (805) 568-2191 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Janet Wolf  
Second District Supervisor  
County of Santa Barbara



23 October 2008

Mr. Samuel P. Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I cannot say enough about the importance of preserving the native vegetation and flora of Santa Cruz Island, which includes 8 plant taxa that are restricted to the island and at least 37 additional plant taxa found only on the California Islands.

Now that feral animal populations on the island have been eliminated, non-native invasive plants continue to represent a serious threat to some of the island's sensitive native plants. More than a dozen new invasive weeds have been discovered on the island just during the last 10 years, and more will undoubtedly continue to arrive since the island is less than 20 miles away from the California mainland, where non-native plants occur in abundance. In addition, natural habitats on the island have been degraded by the feral animal populations and agricultural activities, allowing non-native plants to spread. I am very excited that The Nature Conservancy is planning to develop a rapid response plan to manage incipient invasive plants, so that they can hopefully be eliminated before they have a chance to proliferate.

The Nature Conservancy has demonstrated tremendous dedication to eliminating invasive species and preserving the ecosystem on Santa Cruz Island. I wholeheartedly support the Conservancy's efforts to restore damaged areas on the island and hope that you will help them achieve their goals. Santa Cruz Island is truly a national treasure!

Sincerely yours,

Steve Junak  
Herbarium Curator





Santa Barbara  
Museum of Natural History

*Inspiring a passion for the natural world*

October 23, 2008

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Karl L. Hutterer, Ph.D.

Mr. Samuel P. Schuchat

Executive Officer

California State Coastal Conservancy

1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor

Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I am writing on behalf of The Nature Conservancy's application for funds to activities that are an important part of that agency's ongoing Santa Cruz Island Restoration Project.

Scientists from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History have had many years of experience and involvement in biological and ecological research with the biota of the Channel Islands in general, and Santa Cruz Island in particular. Besides conducting extensive research on the natural history, distribution, ecology, and conservation of a diversity of native species, our Curator of Vertebrate Zoology, Paul Collins, has also been an active member of the Island Fox Conservation Working Group for the past six years and has been involved in efforts undertaken to help recover Island Fox populations on the northern Channel Islands.

For the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, the Channel Islands in general, and Santa Cruz Island in particular, play a centrally important role for understanding the evolution and current conditions of biota in Southern California. The high biodiversity index and the presence of a remarkably high number of endemic species, many of them threatened or endangered, further increases their interest and importance to both science and the long term well-being of our regional terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Santa Cruz Island, with its unique endemic flora and fauna, represents an ideal laboratory for studying the processes of evolution and experimenting with techniques for the conservation of plant and animal resources.

We are exceedingly appreciative not only of the leadership role The Nature Conservancy has played in taking on the protection and management of a large portion of Santa Cruz Island but also of the enormous effort and financial investment the organization has made already in habitat restoration and conservation. The program The Nature Conservancy has been following is very well designed and requires sustained effort and continuity over many years. The conservation work that The Nature Conservancy has been able to accomplish

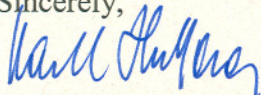


since acquiring the western two-thirds of the island as been truly remarkable and has already produced significant results.

The specific activities for which The Nature Conservancy seeks support in its grant application to the California State Coastal Conservancy are a logical and integral part of the larger, long term strategy. These activities include monitoring and management of all taxa on an island wide basis, eradication of invasive ant species, propagation of native plants, wetland restoration, and development of an invasive species prevention and rapid response plan. All of these elements are important components of an overall restoration strategy.

The larger program of restoring, to some degree, ecological processes to resemble natural conditions that existed on Santa Cruz Island prior to man's intensive grazing use of the island, is a challenging undertaking and needs broad and sustained support. The Nature Conservancy deserves great praise for the vision and courage with which it has been pursuing this goal and for the great energy and large financial investment they have committed to it. We sincerely hope that the California State Coastal Conservancy will lend its support to this exceedingly deserving project.

Sincerely,



Karl L. Hutterer, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

**RECEIVED**  
OCT 27 2008  
COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.